

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/695,890

Applicant(s)

SEKINE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Hong C. Kim

2185

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 10/14/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7 and 8 (renumbered 1-2).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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Detailed Action

1. Claims 7 and 8 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 10/14/2005.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Applicants are reminded of the duty to disclose information under 37 CFR 1.56.

REASONS for ALLOWANCE

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: renumbered claims 1-2 are allowable over the prior art of record an update of a search does not detect the combined claimed elements as set forth in the claims 1-2. As to claim 1 claim is allowable over the prior art of record because none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests a virtual tape management method involves transferring virtual tape file from tape storage area of a processing unit, to virtual tape file of another processing unit using copy function between magnetic disk drives asynchronous to processing units comprises steps of a step in which the second virtual tape transfer processing unit locks the second virtual tape file to give a virtual tape input request to the first virtual tape transfer processing unit; a step in which according to the input request, the first virtual tape transfer processing unit locks a virtual tape volume and the first virtual tape file to create the first virtual tape file and the first virtual tape management information to the input; a step in which the first virtual tape file is transferred to the second virtual tape file using a copy function between disk

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drives so as to be asynchronous to the first system; a step in which the second virtual tape transfer processing unit allows the tape using task execution part to use the second virtual tape file; a step in which the first virtual tape transfer processing unit unlocks the virtual tape volume and the first virtual tape file; and a step in which the second virtual tape transfer processing unit unlocks the second virtual tape file as described in the specification and together with combination of other claimed element as set forth in the claim. As to claim 2 claim is allowable over the prior art of record because none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests a virtual tape management method involves transferring virtual tape file from tape storage area of a processing unit, to virtual tape file of another processing unit using copy function between magnetic disk drives asynchronous to processing units comprises steps of a step in which the second virtual tape transfer processing unit locks the second virtual tape file to give a virtual tape output request to the first virtual tape transfer processing unit; a step in which according to the output request, the first virtual tape transfer processing unit locks a virtual tape volume and the first virtual tape file to notify, to the second virtual tape processing unit, that the virtual tape is usable; a step in which the second virtual tape transfer processing unit outputs the second virtual tape file in response to the notification to transfer the second virtual tape file to the first virtual tape file using a copy function between disk drives; a step in which the first virtual tape transfer processing unit returns data from the first virtual tape file and the first virtual tape management information to the virtual tape storage area after the transfer; a step in which the first virtual tape transfer processing unit unlocks the virtual tape volume

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and the first virtual tape file when the transfer is completed; and a step in which the second virtual tape transfer processing unit unlocks the second virtual tape file when the transfer is completed as described in the specification and together with combination of other claimed element as set forth in the claim.

Therefore, claims 1-2 are allowable over the prior art of records.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons For Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hong C Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-4181. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt M Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

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5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to TC-2100:
571-273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window (Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314).

HK
Primary Patent Examiner
October 26, 2005

